

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2005, please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, claims 7, 133, 259, and 385 have been canceled without acquiescence, prejudice or disclaimer, and no new claims have been added. Additionally, in accordance with MPEP § 821.01, claims 8-80, 93-132, 134-206, 219-258, 260-332, 345-384, 386-458, and 471-510, which were previously withdrawn as pertaining to the non-elected invention, are also hereby canceled without acquiescence, prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, after entry of this paper, claims 81-92, 207-218, 333-344, and 459-470 will be pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 7, 133, 259, and 385 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Stefik et al. (USP 5,629,980 A), and (ii) indicated that claims 81-92, 207-218, 333-344, and 459-470 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 7, 133, 259, and 385 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stefik et al. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection, in the interest of expediting prosecution and avoiding additional costs, Applicants hereby cancel claims 7, 133, 259, and 385 without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter


The Examiner indicated that claims 81-92, 207-218, 333-344, and 459-470 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have hereby rewritten claims 81-92, 207-218, 333-344, and 459-470 in the manner indicated by the Examiner, and respectfully request reconsideration of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 14, 2005

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